Amendments to the Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A gateway device that provides subscriber computers transparent network access, the device comprising:

a subscriber interface for adapting to [a] subscriber ~~computer~~ computers that ~~is~~ are connected to the gateway device to facilitate communications between the subscriber ~~computer~~ computers and at least one network; and

an XML interface for communicating with [an] a plurality of external ~~device~~ devices via a series of XML commands and responses such that the gateway device, located at a network access point, supports communications involving the subscriber ~~computer~~ computers and the external ~~device~~ devices without requiring the subscriber ~~computer~~ computers to support XML commands and responses.

2.   (Original)   A gateway device according to Claim 1 further comprising an internal web server for communicating with both said XML interface and the internet to thereby facilitate XML-based communications between the gateway device and external devices connected to the internet.

3.   (Original)   A gateway device according to Claim 1 wherein said XML interface comprises a parser front end for determining the type of operation requested by the external device.

4.   (Original)   A gateway device according to Claim 1 wherein said XML interface comprises a parser section for organizing elements parsed from at least one of an XML command and an XML response and for passing at least some of the elements to a requested application.

5.   (Original)   A gateway device according to Claim 4 wherein said parser section also nests the elements to be passed to the requested application within an application programming interface (API) wrapper.

6.   (Original)   A gateway device according to Claim 1 wherein said XML interface comprises a building section for preparing responses to requests received by the gateway device.

7.   (Original)   A gateway device according to Claim 6 wherein said building section assembles results returned by a requested application into an XML response.

8.   (Currently Amended)   A gateway device that provides subscriber computers transparent network access, the device comprising:

a subscriber interface for adapting to a subscriber computer computers that [is] are connected to the gateway device to facilitate communications between the subscriber computer computers and at least one network without requiring the subscriber computer to support XML commands and responses;

an XML interface comprising a parser front end, a parser section responsive to the parser front end and a building section for communicating with an external device via a series of XML commands and responses such that the gateway device, located at a network access point, supports communications involving the subscriber computers and the external devices without requiring the subscriber computers to support XML commands and responses; and

an internal web server for communicating with both said XML interface and the internet to thereby facilitate XML-based communications between the gateway device and external devices connected to the internet.

9.   (Original)   A gateway device according to Claim 8 wherein said parser front end determines the type of operation requested by the external device.

10. (Original) A gateway device according to Claim 8 wherein said parser section organizes elements parsed from at least one of an XML command and an XML response and passes at least some of the elements to a requested application.

11. (Original) A gateway device according to Claim 10 wherein said parser section also nests the elements to be passed to the requested application within an application programming interface (API) wrapper.

12. (Original) A gateway device according to Claim 8 wherein said building section prepares responses to requests received by the gateway device.

13. (Original) A gateway device according to Claim 12 wherein said building section assembles results returned by a requested application into an XML response.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating between a subscriber computer and an external device via a gateway device and the internet, the method comprising:

providing the subscriber computer access to at least one network via the gateway device;

adapting, at the gateway device, to the subscriber computer that is connected to the gateway device to facilitate communications between the subscriber computer and at least one network;

receiving an XML command at the gateway device from the external device;

parsing the XML command;

executing the parsed XML command; and

transmitting an XML response from the gateway device to the external device based upon the execution of the XML command such that the gateway device supports communications involving the subscriber computer and the external device without requiring the subscriber computer to support XML commands and responses.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14 wherein receiving an XML command comprises receiving an XML command at the gateway device from a billing and content server.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 14 further comprising determining the type of operation requested by the external device prior to parsing the XML command.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 14 wherein executing the XML command comprises:

passing the parsed XML command to a respective application program; and

receiving a response from the respective application program.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 further comprising nesting the parsed XML command to the requested application within an application programming interface (API) wrapper between said parsing and passing steps.